

Hartford, Conn.



The Urban Environmental Initiative (UEI) is a pilot program launched in 1995 under the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Region 1, New England, to address environmental and public health problems in urban cities. The UEI facilitates community based environmental protection in targeted cities by taking an active role in listening to community needs and concerns, identifying projects, and providing resources to implement projects that make measurable improvements in public health and the quality of the urban environment.

► EPA Contact

Stacey Johnson
(617) 918-1552
johnson.stacey@epa.gov



Customer Call Center
888-372-7341
www.epa.gov/region1



What Makes Hartford Special?

- Hartford has a population of approximately 130,000 people living in an area of 18.4 square miles sub-divided into 17 neighborhoods.
- Hartford is 70 percent minority and has the lowest per capita income in Connecticut at \$24,000.

Why Does Hartford Need Special Attention?

- Childhood lead poisoning rates in Hartford are at 13 percent, twice the state average.
- Asthma rates at 17 percent are nearly double the U.S. average; childhood asthma is the leading cause of school absenteeism and hospitalization.
- Six major highways, such as I-84 and I-91, surround the city, causing 70 percent of the mobile source carbon monoxide in the city.
- Tributaries, such as Park River and Piper Brook, have high bacteria counts and metals contamination caused by Combined Sewer Overflows, and urban runoff.

What Is The Long Term Goal?

- The Urban Environmental Initiative aims to increase community awareness and participation to improve environmental quality and public health (asthma, lead poisoning and air toxics)

Progress/Goals for the Future

What Partnership Progress Has Been Made?

- In partnership with University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension community environmental educators (CEE) were trained in lead poisoning prevention and indoor air quality and presented to 37 childcare providers from fifteen sites. These providers represent 3,701 children in the city.
- Community level efforts are underway to identify major air polluters, such as diesel trucks, that contribute to high levels of ozone and other toxins in the airshed.
- Worked with the Hartford Redevelopment Agency to develop a vacant lot program which allows transfer of select urban vacant lots to local residents.
- Knox Parks Foundation: Chestnut Reclamation project, a brownfields site, completed Phase I and Phase II of the environmental assessment.
- Hartford Areas Rally Together: vacant lots have been cleaned-up in three target communities.

What Are The Major Actions Planned For 2000?

- Decrease hospital visits for children who suffer with severe asthma and lead poisoning through targeted home-based education and relocation to healthy homes.
- Converting an overgrown area in the Behind the Rock neighborhood into an open space for productive use.
- Develop and implement a training program for neighborhood parents about the environmental issues facing Hartford and draft a plan of action to address them.
- Work with partners to collect, evaluate, and communicate neighborhood health data.

City of Hartford



Who Are The Partners?

• U.S. Environmental Protection Agency • Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection • City of Hartford Department of Health • Citizen's Research Education Network (CREN) • Eastern Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development Area • Connecticut Voices for Children, Inc. • Connecticut Environmental Justice Coalition • Hispanic Health Council • Hartford Areas Rally Together (HART) • Knox Parks Foundation • Hartford Enterprise Zone Business Association • University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension Services • Organized North Easterners/Clay Hill and North End, (ONE/CHANE) Inc. • Southside Institutional Neighborhood Association (SINA) • South Arsenal Neighborhood Development Corporation (SAND) • St. Francis Hospital • Hartford Hospital • Upper Albany Merchants Association



Watershed Boundaries
Hartford Neighborhoods

This map produced by the
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Note: EPA-New England offers businesses and municipalities information and assistance to improve compliance with environmental laws and be better stewards of their local environment. Please call to learn how EPA can help.